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C1 38. (Amended) The method according to claim 39, further comprising the steps of preparing a cell extract from the cell transfected with said nucleic acid molecule, isolating a membrane fraction of said cell extract, and contacting said candidate compound with said membrane fraction under conditions permitting binding of the compound to said fraction.

C2 39. (Amended) The method according to claim 39, wherein said cell is exposed to said candidate compound, in the presence of a ligand for the CCR5 receptor.

C3 40. (Amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising measuring the infectivity of the cell by HIV.

Please add claims 55-59.

41. The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of transfecting said cell with said nucleic acid molecule encoding said receptor or said portion thereof so as to provide said transfected cell of step (a).

42. (New) A method of identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide sequence comprising one of SEQ ID Nos. 4, 5, or 6, comprising contacting said polypeptide with said candidate compound and detecting binding of said candidate compound to said polypeptide.

43. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein said compound decreases infectivity by HIV by at least two-fold.

44. (New) A method for identifying a compound which decreases infectivity of a cell by HIV comprising:

(a) contacting a cell which expresses a polypeptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, 5, and 6 with a candidate compound;

(b) contacting the cell with HIV, or a portion thereof; and

(c) measuring infectivity of said cell by said HIV.

45. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein HIV infectivity is decreased by at least two-fold.

A marked up version of the amended claims is enclosed herewith.

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